

Sumas Energy 2
October 16, 2001 Public Hearing

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Comments by:
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Executive Secretary
Northwest Building and Construction Trades Council
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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Sumas Energy 2 project.

The Northwest Building and Construction Trades Council represents the construction trade unions in Northwest Washington. We support the construction of environmentally sensitive power plants to provide power for our towns, our state and our country. Energy self-sufficiency is key to our country's national security.

We are proud to support the SE2 project because it will provide clean energy for our growing region and it will provide an economic shot in the arm at a time when it is sorely needed.

Sumas Energy 2 is the cleanest gas-fired power plant ever proposed in Washington, Oregon, Idaho or British Columbia. It represents the best in environmental controls and technology.

Much todo is made about the impacts of SE2 on the Fraser River valley, but when you compare SE2 to the Burrard Thermal plant and to the Campbell River Cogeneration plant, you realize that SE2 is much cleaner. In fact, recent articles on the Campbell River plant have compared it, unfavorably, to the SE2 power proposal. If you were to ask the folks in Campbell River, they would probably be glad to have the SE2 project, given its low emissions.

SE2 is voluntarily agreeing to mitigate its CO2 emissions by following the Oregon monetary path. This will mean hundreds of thousands of dollars annually going to

activities to promote clean air. SE2 has gone even further however and has agreed to try and offset its NOx and CO emissions in the Fraser River Valley. If unable to do so, it will contribute \$1.5 million to a local clean air fund to be administered by MELP and DOE. This is a precedent-setting action and goes way beyond what any other power plant developer is proposing.

Diesel burning has been eliminated from the proposal, water use has been reduced, a water supply compensation program established for Sumas and any loss of wetlands will be fully mitigated.

What this all adds up to is one of the most environmentally sensitive power plants ever proposed. If we as a community are not willing to support this project, then it begs the obvious question, what will we support? Are we willing to step up to the plate and make the tough decisions based on a view of the big picture, or will we be lighting candles, smug in our satisfaction at having opposed new power development, whatever the impacts?

On a separate track, SE2 will provide a much-needed boost for the local economy. In these days of layoffs and hiring freezes, a major new construction project in the county will be a huge boost, providing an injection into the local economy of taxes and wages. Furthermore, SE2 has agreed to use local union construction workers and pay them a living wage and pay for health insurance and pension benefits. These workers are going to recycle that money into the local economy, providing a spinoff effect from the construction. Additionally, a great deal of construction materials will need to be purchased in the region and on an annual basis when the plant is operating. The sales and use tax on these items will provide a financial boost to the City, the County and the State.

Sumas will see its assessed valuation jump by the value of the plant. The plant will pay property taxes to the city and this will allow the city to either invest in new infrastructure or services, or reduce the existing tax rate on residents.

SE2 will be a great economic benefit to the City, the County, the State, the workers and the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Owen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

We urge EFSEC to approve the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.